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SOURCE

Sovetskaya Belorussiya.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS MINISTRY SCORED FOR INSTITUTE'S UNSATISFACTORY WORK

The responsibility for the work of specialized scientific research institutes lies with the ministries and departments having jurisdiction over such institutes. The ministries must constantly supervise the work done by the institutes and assist them in striving to solve actual problems connected with the development of industry.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Belorussian SSR has not been supervising its scientific research institutes in the proper manner. As a result, the work of the Scientific Research Institute of Construction Materials is on a very low level.

Research projects do not answer the problems and requirements of construction organizations of the city of Minsk and of the Belorussian SSR. Insufficient attention is given to the problem of expanding the assortment of construction materials produced in the republic, of introducing advanced labor methods, and of finding ways to increase production, improve the quality of products, and lower production costs. Novash, former director of the institute, handled the work unsatisfactorily, and, as a result, the 1951 plan was not fulfilled. Out of four laboratories of the institute, only the laboratory of binding materials fulfilled the 1951 plan 123 percent. The ceramics laboratory completed only 85 percent of the plan. This laboratory does very little scientific work and has actually become a testing station for raw materials and finished products. It determines whether certain types of clay are fit or unfit for use in brick production.

The heat engineering laboratory, headed by Lagutchik, is also operating inefficiently. During 1951, the laboratory worked out only one actual problem, i.e., a method of accelerated drying of bricks at the Mogilev Construction Materials Combine. The main reasons for inefficient operation of the laboratories are the lack of proper organization, lack of adequate supervision, and poor work discipline.

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The scientific work of the institute is headed by Petrov, deputy director for scientific affairs. However, he is not much concerned with the organization of creative scientific work in the institute.

The associates of the institute have done little to improve their scientific qualifications. During the 8-year period since the formation of the institute, not one of the associates has defended a dissertation for the degree of candidate of technical sciences. Out of 16 junior scientific associates, only three are preparing for an examination to meet the minimum requirements of a candidate. The remaining workers have made no effort to improve their scientific knowledge. An important part in the work of the institute belongs to doctors of technical sciences E. Kh. Odel'skiy and M. A. Bezborodov. However, they too give little attention and assistance to the institute.

A great part of the blame for the unsatisfactory work of the institute is laid on the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Belorussian SSR. Supervisory workers of the institute obviously do not realize the significance of the institute in the development of such an important branch of industry as the production of construction materials. As a result, the ministry not only failed to expand the personnel of the institute, but, on the contrary, for the past 2 years it has reduced the number of its workers, including three candidates of technical sciences.

The ministry has also failed to supply the institute with the necessary equipment and measuring instruments. The reports of the institute on its activities have not been discussed by the Technical Council of the ministry and its workers are often not even aware of what the institute is doing. This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

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